

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 9-11 and 16 as follows:

1. (Currently Presented) An image taking apparatus comprising:

a light splitting unit which splits a light flux from an image-taking lens ~~to~~ into a plurality of light fluxes;

a view finder optical system configured and positioned to observe an object image formed by the light flux from the image-taking lens;

an image pickup element which photoelectrically converts the object image to an electrical signal; and

a focus detection unit configured and positioned to detect the focusing state of the image-taking lens according to a phase difference detection system,

wherein the light splitting unit changes its state among a first state in which the light flux is directed to the view finder optical system and the focus detection unit, a second state in which the light flux is directed to the image pickup element and the focus detection unit and a third state in which the light flux is directed only to the image pickup element[.],

wherein the light splitting unit has a first mirror comprising a half mirror and second mirror which are movable independently of each other,

wherein in the first state, part of the light flux is reflected by the first mirror and directed to the view finder optical system, and the rest of the light flux passes through the first mirror, is reflected by the second mirror and directed to the focus detection unit, and

wherein in the second state, part of the light flux is reflected by the first mirror and directed to the focus detection unit, and the rest of the light flux passes through the first mirror and is directed to the image pickup element.

2. (Original) The image taking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
an image display unit which displays image data acquired using the image pickup element; and
a control circuit which controls the driving of the image display unit,
wherein the control circuit causes the image display unit to display the image data when the light splitting unit is in the second state.

3. (Original) The image taking apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the control circuit causes the image display unit to display only a part of the image data when the light splitting unit is in the second state.

4. (Previously Presented) The image taking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
an information display unit which displays information within the field of view of the view finder optical system; and
a control circuit which controls the driving of the information display unit,
wherein the control circuit does not drive the information display unit when the light splitting unit is in the second state.

5. (Previously Presented) The image taking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a light-blocking member which moves with respect to the optical path of the view finder optical system; and

a control circuit which controls the driving of the light-blocking member,

wherein the control circuit causes the light-blocking member to be inserted into the optical path of the view finder optical system when the light splitting unit is in the second state.

6. (Previously Presented) The image taking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a control circuit which determines the focusing state of the image-taking lens based on the output of the focus detection unit,

wherein the control circuit changes the determination of the focusing state according to the first state and the second state.

7. (Previously Presented) The image taking apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein the control circuit determines the focusing state by correcting the output of the focus detection unit based on an initial phase difference and changes the value of the initial phase difference according to the first state and the second state.

8. Canceled.

9. (Currently Amended) The image taking apparatus according to claim [[8]] 1,
wherein the position of the reflecting surface of the second mirror in the first state is
substantially the same as the position of the reflecting surface of the first mirror in the second
state.

10. (Currently Amended) The image taking apparatus according to claim [[8]] 1,
wherein when changing from one state to the other between the first state and the second
state, the light splitting unit is placed in the third state in which the first mirror and the second
mirror are withdrawn from an image-taking optical path.

11. (Currently Amended) The image taking apparatus according to claim [[8]] 1, further
comprising:

a stopper member which contacts the first mirror for positioning the first mirror in the
first state,

wherein the stopper member can move with respect to a moving track of the first mirror.

12. (Previously Presented) The image taking apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the image-taking lens is attachable and detachable to the image taking apparatus.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A lens apparatus mounted on an image taking apparatus operating in a first mode in which a light flux from an object is directed to a view finder optical system and a focus detection unit and a second mode in which the light flux is directed to a an image pickup element and the focus detection unit, comprising:

a communication unit which communicates with the image taking apparatus;

a light quantity adjusting unit which controls the quantity of the light flux directed to the image taking apparatus; and

a control circuit which controls the driving of the light quantity adjusting unit according to the communication of the communication unit,

wherein the control circuit controls the driving of the light quantity adjusting unit in the first and second modes, and changes the practice of the control of the light quantity adjusting unit according to the first mode and the second mode.